REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action'), Claims 1-9, 11, 25-33, 35-36, and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,421,065, issued to Walden et al. (hereinafter "Walden"). Claims 49-60 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,589, issued to Blewett et al. (hereinafter "Blewett"). Claims 49 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,024,658, issued to Cohen et al. (hereinafter "Cohen").

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 25, 26, 28, 30, 49, 51, 53, 55, 61, and 62 are amended. Claims 3, 5, 27, 29, 35, 50, and 52 are canceled. Claims 63-68 are newly added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 25, 26, 28, 30-33, 36, 49, 51 and 53-68 are now pending, with Claims 1, 25, 49, 61, and 62 independent.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Prior to presenting the reasons why the applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, a brief summary of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited references are provided. These summaries, however, are presented solely to assist the Examiner in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references, and should not be construed as limiting on the disclosed subject matter.

Brief Descriptions

Disclosed Subject Matter

The disclosed subject matter is directed to providing a task library on a computing system. Unlike typical help systems where the various help files are independent sources of information/help directed to a single corresponding component, the disclosed subject matter

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describes a task library where task data corresponding to the various components on a computer system (including software application components, hardware device components, and operating system components) are integrated into a single collection. In addition to being in a single collection, task data corresponding to various sources are grouped together according to common subject matter, and a single task may be collectively implemented by multiple components. Still further, task data in the task library is configured such that a user can manipulate aspects of a component referenced by the task data from within the task library (i.e., without requiring the user to change context from the task library to the corresponding component).

The disclosed task library and associated methods and systems differ from typical help systems in at least the following ways: the task library integrates information (task data) from multiple installed components (including software application components, hardware device components, and operating system components) into a single source; tasks can relate to actions collectively implemented by more than one component; and task data from the various components are linked together according to common subject matter (some task data being linked to multiple subjects) within the task library.

U.S. Patent No. 6,421,065 (Walden)

Walden is purportedly directed toward displaying HTML-based files. In particular, Walden discloses a help file viewer with a toolbar pane, a navigation pane, and an HTML pane. Walden, Col. 6, lines 55-57. The navigation pane contains a group of tabs that allow the display of different help pages in the HTML pane. Col. 6, lines 59-61. Walden is primarily directed to describing how the navigation pane and the HTML pane are to be displayed. Specifically, the help file viewer of Walden contains a "Hide/Show" button in the toolbar, which can be used to hide or restore the navigation pane. Figures 8 and 9; Col. 7, line 55–Col. 8, line 4. Walden uses

this "hiding" functionality to purportedly address the problem of displaying a help file to a user while allowing the user to interact with the application the user is seeking help with. Id.

While Walden purportedly discloses a help file viewer, applicants respectfully point out that Walden fails to teach, disclose, or suggest combining task data relevant to a plurality of components, including software applications, hardware devices, and operating system components, into a single task library. The help file viewer of Walden similarly fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a task that is collectively implemented by at least two of a plurality of components. In fact, Walden explicitly and repeatedly refers to providing help for a single program. *See, e.g.*, Col. 4, lines 7-10 ("help information pertinent to *a task or operation* the user is performing"); Col. 2, lines 35-36 ("the help program *and the program for which it is supplying help*") (emphasis added). In contrast, the tasks of the current application relate to multiple components.

Further, applicants respectfully point out that, while Walden purportedly allows a user to show or hide a navigation frame to allow a user to interact with a separate program, Walden fails to teach, disclose, or suggest interacting with a first component without changing a user context from a second component. Even when the navigation pane of Walden is hidden to show a second program, the user must still switch context from the help viewer to the now visible second program in order to interact with the second program.

U.S. Patent No. 6,327,589 (Blewett)

Blewett is purportedly directed to providing search services on files whose format is not a given help system's help file format. In particular, Blewett discloses that a list of web pages or HTML files are provided by a user to the Blewett system. Blewett, Col. 2, lines 45-46. These files are structured in an HTML format and include both title data and corresponding body data. Blewett, Col. 2, lines 45-48. The information in these structured files is retrieved and placed in a

searchable database to be used in conjunction with existing help files. Blewett, Figure 3, block 325; Col. 3, lines 23-27. Moreover, a search can be conducted on multiple searchable databases. As part of placing file information into a searchable database, term-topic links are created. A term-topic link is a relationship between a particular term (such as the term "merge") and a corresponding topic (such as "how to merge cells in a table"). Blewett, Col. 7, lines 3-22.

While Blewett purportedly supports generating a searchable database from multiple sources, applicants point out that these searchable databases appear to be generated for individual components. Indeed, Blewett fails to disclose or teach obtaining task information for a plurality of components installed on the computer system, or a task that is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components. Blewett also fails to disclose or teach task data configured to modify aspects of a component from within the task library.

U.S. Patent No. 7,024,658 (Cohen)

Cohen is purportedly directed to providing an extensible help system. Particularly, Cohen discloses that, for a given software application, one or more help files may be provided, and further discloses that, for a given software application, the help system can automatically detect the addition of help files and integrate the added help files. Cohen further discloses creating help "recipes" that correspond to a collection of actions that carry out a particular function on the computer system with regard to the corresponding software application.

Cohen also purportedly discloses that some of the help tasks can selectively cause an operation corresponding to an interactive link to be performed by the computer software application based on the detected state. Cohen, Abstract.

While Cohen purportedly discloses adding additional help files to the help system for a software application, and further purportedly discloses help tasks that can selectively cause an operation to be carried out in the corresponding software application, applicants point out that

this help system is directed entirely to a single software application. In other words, while the help system can add help files to the help system, the help files are added in regard to the same software application. Moreover, the ability to execute an operation from the help system on the corresponding software application is made in regard to the one corresponding software application. Cohen fails to disclose obtaining task information for a plurality of components installed on the computer system, or a task which is collectively implemented by at least two of a plurality of components installed on the computer system.

Patentability of Independent Claims 1, 25, and 61

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 25, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Walden. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, Claim 1 recites:

> 1.   A method for creating a task library on a computer, comprising:
> obtaining task data for *a plurality of components* installed on the computer, the plurality of components comprising *a plurality of software applications*,
>
> wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components,
>
> wherein *at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*, and
>
> wherein at least some task data corresponding to the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component or components may be manipulated from within the task library;
>
> generating task links referencing the task data for the plurality of components according to a predetermined schema; and
>
> storing the task data and the task links as the task library. (Emphasis added.)

As amended, Claim 25 recites:

25.   A computer system comprising:
        a processor;
        a memory storing a task library, the task library comprising:

                task data for *a plurality of components* installed on the computer system, the plurality of components comprising *a plurality of software applications*,

                        wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components installed on the computer, and

                        wherein *at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*; and

                task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components generated according to a defined schema. (Emphasis added.)

As amended, Claim 61 recites:

61.   A computer-readable storage medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out the method for creating a task library on a computer, the method comprising:

        obtaining task data for *a plurality of components* installed on a computer, the plurality of components comprising *a plurality of software applications*,

                wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components,

                wherein *at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*, and

                wherein task data corresponding to at least one component of the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component or components may be manipulated from within the task library;

        storing the task data in a task library;

        generating task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components according to a predetermined schema; and

        storing the task links with the task library. (Emphasis added.)

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As set forth above, Walden describes a help viewer operable for displaying help related to a single component. However, Walden fails to disclose a task library which contains task data for *a plurality of components*, the plurality of components comprising *a plurality of software applications*, or a task that is *collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*, as recited in amended Claims 1, 25, and 61.

Further, Walden fails to disclose task data configured such that the corresponding component may be manipulated from within the task library. As described above, although Walden purportedly allows a navigation pane to be hidden in order to make an application visible, applicants expressly deny that this discloses manipulating a corresponding component from within the task library because it requires a change in user context from the help application to the underlying application.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Walden fails to disclose each and every element of independent Claims 1, 25, and 61. Accordingly, applicants submit that withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to these claims is merited, and that the claims are allowable.

Patentability of Independent Claims 49 and 62

The Office Action rejected Claims 49 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Blewett, and further under § 102(e) as anticipated by Cohen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As amended, Claim 49 recites:

> 49. A method for executing a task relating to a first component on a computer *without changing user context from a second component*, the method comprising:

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retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks *implemented by a plurality of components* installed on the computer,

wherein the plurality of components comprises *more than one software application*, and

wherein *at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user within the context of the second component;

detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and

executing an action associated with the selected task and the first component without changing the user context from the second component. (Emphasis added.)

As amended, Claim 62 recites:

62. A computer-readable storage medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out a method for executing a task relating to a first component on a computer *without changing user context from a second component*, the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks *implemented by a plurality of components* installed on the computer,

wherein the plurality of components comprises *more than one software application*, and

wherein *at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user within the context of the second component;

detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and

executing an action associated with the selected task and the first component without changing the user context from the second component. (Emphasis added.)

As set forth above, neither Blewett nor Cohen teach, describe, or suggest a task library comprising a plurality of tasks *from a plurality of components*, the plurality of components comprising *more than one software application*, or a task that is *collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components*, as recited in amended Claims 49 and 62.

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Applicants submit that neither Blewett nor Cohen, either alone or in combination, discloses each and every element of independent Claims 49 and 62. Accordingly, applicants submit that withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 102(e) rejections with respect to Claims 49 and 62 is merited, and that the claims are allowable.

Patentability of Dependent Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 26, 28, 30-33, 35, 36, 51, 53-60, and 63-68

Claims 2, 4, 6-9, and 11, as well as new Claims 63 and 64, depend from Claim 1. Claims 26, 28, 30-33, 35, and 36, as well as new Claims 65 and 66, depend from Claim 25. Claims 51 and 53-60, as well as new Claims 67 and 68, depend from Claim 49. Applicants submit that these claims are in allowance at least by virtue of these dependencies, as well as by virtue of the other claim features set forth therein.

Specifically, applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teaches, describes, or suggests a plurality of components that comprises at least one *hardware device* as recited in Claims 2, 26, and 51; nor a plurality of components that comprises at least one component *operating on another computer* as recited in Claims 6 and 30. Applicants also submit that none of the cited references teaches, describes, or suggests *a task that is collectively implemented by at least two software applications* as recited in Claims 63, 65, and 67; nor *a task that is collectively implemented by at least one software application and one hardware device* as recited in Claims 64, 66, and 68.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections with respect to these claims is merited, and that the previously rejected claims, along with the newly added claims, are allowable.
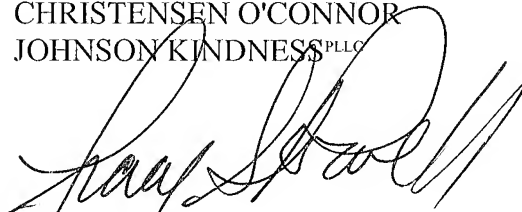
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 25, 26, 28, 30-33, 35, 36, 49, 51 and 53-68 are in condition for allowance over the cited and applied references, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same. The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number provided below to resolve any issues that may arise in order to advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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